

# ***NEWS RELEASE***

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***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
San Diego, California***

***United States Attorney  
Carol C. Lam***

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***For Immediate Release***

**NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY** - January 28, 2005

United States Attorney Carol C. Lam announced that Kenneth Gill was sentenced today in federal district court in San Diego, for his role in a scam involving fraudulent offers to sell luggage. United States District Judge Jeffrey T. Miller sentenced Gill to serve a term of 12 months in custody for his plea of guilty to the offense of conspiracy to commit bank fraud.

At the time of his plea on September 17, 2004, Gill admitted that he met an individual in Mexico on December 31, 2002, and agreed to assist that individual in his scheme. Ads had been placed in newspapers in the United States, under the name Taft Liquidation, stating that buyers could purchase a five piece set of American Tourister (Samsonite) luggage for \$39.99. Customers were directed to send their checks to a post office box in Oregon. No luggage was sent in return to persons who sent their checks to Taft Liquidation.

Gill further admitted that on February 3, 2003, he opened an account at Wells Fargo Bank in San Diego, California. At the time he opened the account, he provided false identification in the name of

Edward Schwartz of Taft Liquidation Center. The false identification documents were provided to Gill by the individual in Mexico, who also provided him with false identification in four other names. It was intended by Gill and his coconspirators that the checks from the victims of the luggage scheme would be cashed by means of this account. Wells Fargo Bank closed the account in March 2003 due to the number of checks made to Taft Liquidation that were deposited into the account then were returned or payment was stopped. Because Wells Fargo Bank discovered the fraud quickly and closed the account, they suffered no loss as a result of the scheme.

**DEFENDANT**

**Criminal Case No. 04-CR-2429-JM**

Kenneth Delmar Gill  
San Diego, California

**SUMMARY OF CHARGE**

Conspiracy to Commit Bank Fraud, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371  
Maximum Penalty: 5 years in custody and/or \$250,000 fine

**AGENCY**

United States Postal Inspection Service  
San Diego Police Department